

Climate Services and Application Working Group, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, 23-25 September 2015

The Regional Association I Working Group on Climate Matters and Applications (now Climate Service and Application Working Group) was established in 2010 as decided by the Fifteenth Session of RA I in Marrakesh, Morocco. ***The major objective for the establishment of the Working Group is to implement the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) in RA I, including Regional Climate Centres (RCCs), Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) and Climate Services at the National level.*** The major pillars of the implementation of the GFCS are the Regional Climate Centres and the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) including the WMO Regional Climate Centre Network.

Therefore, the main thrust of this Working Group would be for the ***development of action plans and strategies*** for the implementation of the RCCs for the enhancement of the application of the GFCS for RAI. In addition and where possible, the development/compilation of technical notes on different types of user tailored products in line with the implementation of the GFCS that can have importance for RAI.

The following are some of the major tasks that can be considered in this meeting for the Working Group:

- Task 1: Survey on regional needs for, and capacity and identification of user tailored products and Regional Climate Outlook Forums (RCOFs) to be delivered by the WMO RCC services and the WMO Regional Climate Centre Networks in RAI.
- Task 2: Develop modalities for a closely work between WMO and RAI for the implementation of the RCCS for the region.
- Task 3: Work actively in coordination with RAI in the implementation, demonstration and consolidation of the RCC-related products and services in RAI.
- Task 4: Develops strategies for enhancing the networking between the NMHSs and the RCCs by identifying the existing opportunities for networking and pooling the capacities of NHMSs for Climate Services at the National level.

The implementation of these tasks by this Working Group requires the necessary awareness and unity of purpose among the members. Moreover these tasks can also be considered as covering four thematic areas and can also be used as major topics of discussion during this meeting. For example, the activities on the first task would be greatly related with the identification of benchmarks and best experiences in the development of user tailored products either from RAI or from other regional groupings that can be up-scaled in RAI.

Activities in the second task requires the updating of the information regarding the status of the implementation of RCCs in the sub-regional groupings and also the status of Regional Climate Centre Network (where National Meteorological and Hydrological Services can work as nodes) and also other on-going processes regarding the implementation of the RCCs by different countries National Meteorological and Hydrological Services to have more prominent role in the Regional Climate Centre Networks.

The third task involves the assessment and the recommendation of improvements of the already designated RCCs products and services in RAI. The fourth task comes only after the above three tasks are completed; however draft action plan can be completed at this meeting.

Thus the suggestion here is first on information sharing and discussion on the above four listed tasks.